GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1313
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Promotion of Export-Import
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken by the Government so far to promote import and export in the country during the last one year;
(b) whether the Government has taken any concrete measures to make the farmers of the country, particularly farmers from Jharkhand and Bihar, aware of export procedures so that the crops produced by these farmers could be exported directly;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the details of profits accrued and losses suffered by the Government by way of import and export of various items during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a). The following are some of the measures Government has taken recently to promote import and exports :

(i) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced i n the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015.MEIS aims to incentivize export of merchandise which are produced/manufactured in India. At the time of introduction of MEIS on April 1, 2015, the scheme covered 4914 tariff lines at 8 digit level. Countries of the globe were grouped into 3 market categories (Country Group A, Country Group B & Country Group C) for grant of incentives under MEIS. Slight changes in lines covered etc. were made on 14.07.2015 and 15.7.2015. Thereafter on 29.10.2015, 110 new Tariff Lines at 8 digit level were added under the scheme. The rates/country coverage for 2228 lines at 8 digit level were enhanced. As on date, 5012 Tariff Lines at 8 digit level are eligible for rewards under MEIS. The annual resource allocation under MEIS was enhanced from Rs. 18000 crore to Rs. 21000 crore in October 2015.

(ii) The Government has introduced the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre & Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit with effect from 1.4.2015. The scheme is available to all exports under 416 tariff lines [at ITC (HS) code of 4 digit] and exports made by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across all ITC (HS) codes. The rate of interest equalisation is 3% per annum.

(iii) In addition the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback/refund of duties. ,

(b) & (c). The Government is implementing the NiryatBandhu Scheme with an objective to reach out to the new and potential exporters and mentor them through orientation programmes, counselling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India. Outreach programs have been organized by the regional offices of DGFT in Bihar (Muzzaffarpur and Patna) and Jharkhand (Jamshedpur and Ranchi) during the year 2015-16 for the new and prospective exporters representing different sectors to inform them about the various schemes of the Government of India for incentives on exports and the procedures involved in foreign trade. More than 300 people have attended these outreach programs.

(d). Profits / losses from time to time are a feature of business, including the business of international trade. Measures taken by Government are aimed at improving the competitiveness of our exports.

India's exports, imports and trade deficit during the last three years is as follows:

Value: USD Billion

Period	Exports	Imports	Trade Deficit
2013-14	314.41	450.20	-135.79
2014-15	310.34	448.03	-137.69
2015-16 (Provisional)	261.14	379.60	-118.46

******